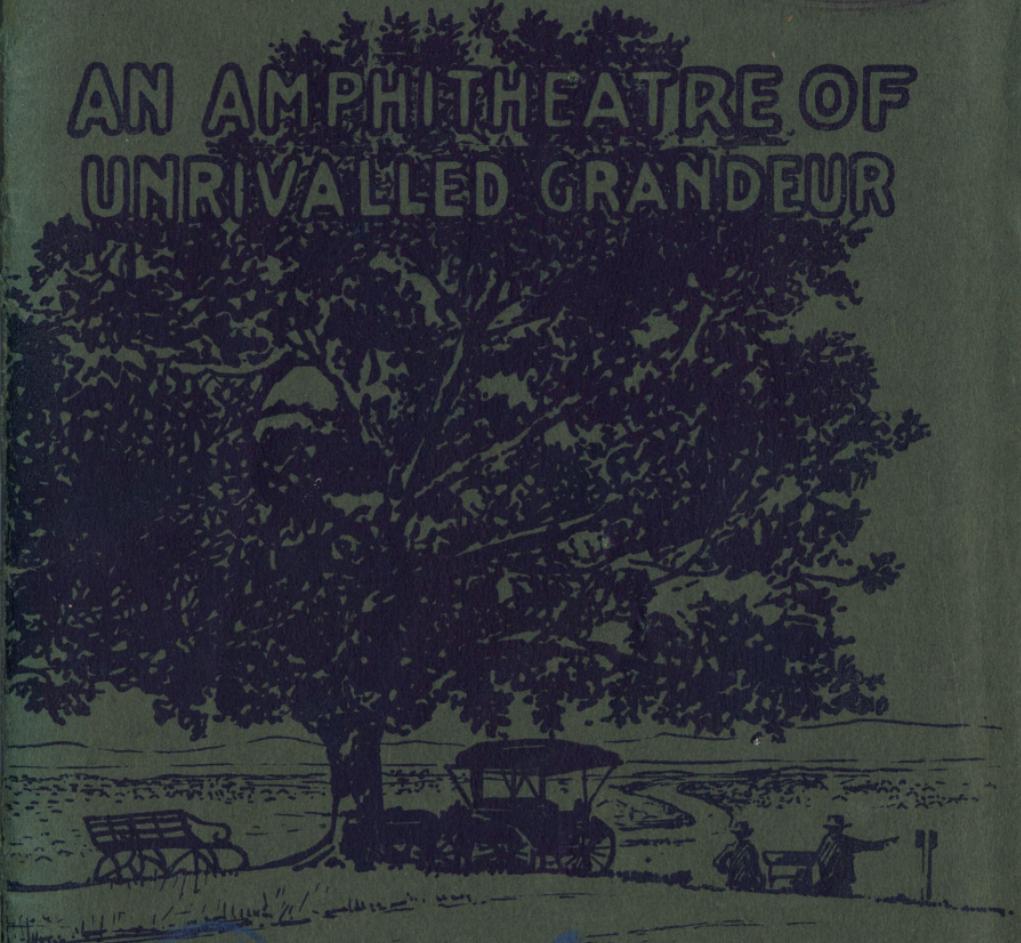


MOUNT COOT-THA (ONE TREE HILL) BRISBANE.

BRISBANE

AN AMPHITHEATRE OF UNRIVALLED GRANDEUR



FIRST EDITION

1914

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BRISBANE.





Mount Coot-tha.

BRISBANE.

QUEENSLAND.

By P. O'Nally

“YOU can command a superb view of Paris from the last giddy platform of the Eiffel Tower; you can see Switzerland in miniature from the summit of Rigi or Pilatus; you can revel in beauteous scenes from the top of Tomna-hurich in Inverness (Scotland); from Wilhelmshohe, near Cassel (Germany), you can feast your soul on a landscape where Nature and art and wealth all combine to evolve scenic wonders; and you can gaze at New York (America) from the forty-sixth storey of



THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT COOT-THA.

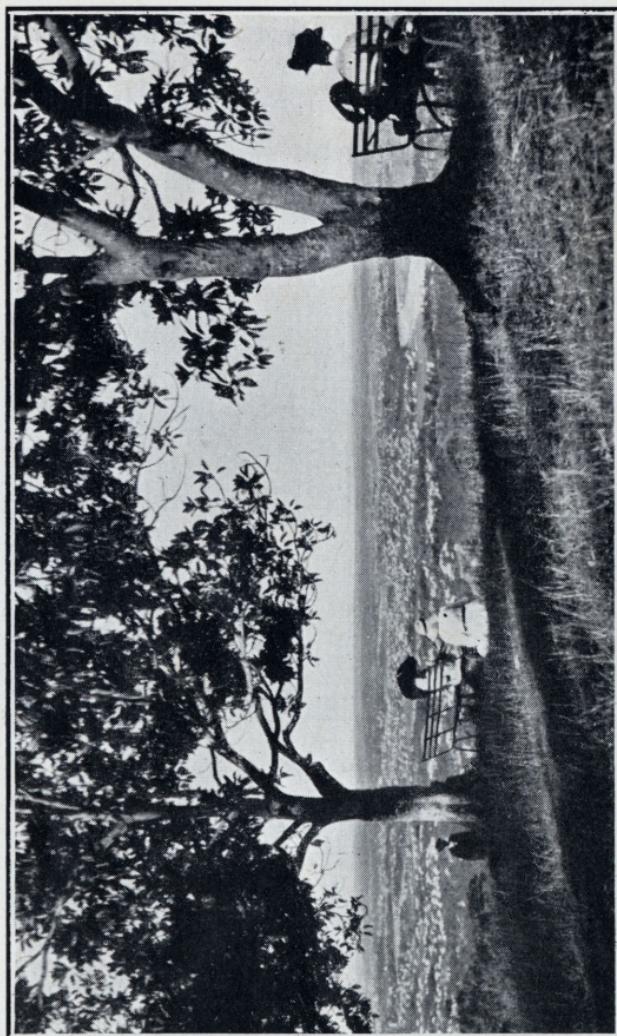
the Woolworth Building; but within five miles of Brisbane is a natural view that surpasses any of these: it is the Coronation Drive on the apex of Mount Coot-tha.” Thus wrote a globe-trotter in one of the Brisbane daily papers.

Mount Coot-tha, or, as it is popularly called, One Tree Hill, is about five miles due west from the city of Brisbane (the capital of Queensland), and occupies a commanding position on Taylor’s Range. Its highest elevation—Constitution Hill—is 844 feet above sea level. Mount Coot-tha itself, it may be mentioned, has an altitude of 743 feet. The present-day name of Mount Coot-tha owes its origin to a word in the dialect of the Queensland aborigines. According to the dusky sons of the soil, the hyphenated word, “Coot-tha,” means honey. In the early days of what is now known as Brisbane, Mount

MOUNT COOT-THA.

Coot-tha was one of the happy hunting grounds of the blacks. The primitive hives of myriad bush bees provided them with the sweets of life, while the feathered game and marsupials, which abounded in large numbers, satisfied their carnivorous tastes. Since these wild, pre-historic days a wonderful transformation has taken place: Brisbane has grown, as if by magic, from an insignificant hamlet into a city of great proportions, and the incidents of the long ago yesterday are but a memory.

Many years ago Mount Coot-tha boasted of having but a solitary giant of the forest on its crest, hence the origin of the name One Tree Hill. This distin-



PANORAMA OF BRISBANE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, LOOKING EAST.

guishing landmark, however, was ruthlessly removed some time ago through the vandalism of picnickers in making fires at its base. The life of the tree was sapped, and it soon went the way of all things mundane. In the early forties, it may be stated, there was a dense forest of trees on the summit of Mount Coot-tha.

It was in 1880 that One Tree Hill, and an area of 1,500 acres surrounding it, was placed under the

MOUNT COOT-THA.

control of trustees as a reserve for public recreation, and the spot was rechristened Mount Coot-tha. Very little, however, was done in the way of making the place attractive to tourists until a few years ago. The present trustees, by means of an annual grant of £1,000 from the State Government, have done a great deal towards bringing the attractions of Mount Coot-tha prominently under the notice of all visitors to the metropolis. The steep, rough bridle tracks of years ago have been replaced by well-made roads and paths, with the result that pedestrians and motorists can attain the highest points of Mount Coot-tha with the utmost ease and comfort, and spend a pleasant time in an atmosphere

“ Far from the madding crowd’s ignoble strife,

Where brain fag is quickly dispelled, and highly-strung nerves are soothed.”

As has already been stated, there are two outstanding coigns of vantage within the Mount Coot-tha Reserve—Mount Coot-tha and Constitution Hill. On the crest of the former the late Duke of Clarence (then Prince Albert) and Prince George (now King George V. of Great Britain and its dependencies), during their visit to Brisbane in 1882, planted two Moreton Bay fig trees. The late Sir Thomas McIlwraith (a quondam Premier of Queensland), and Earl Clanwilliam also planted trees on this memorable occasion. To-day these trees add a great deal to the picturesqueness of the hill, while beneath their umbrageous foliage pleasure-seekers are provided with cool resting-places. Ample provision has been made for the comfort of visitors in the way of seating accommodation, shelter sheds, water supply, and other conveniences; and at the ~~kiosk~~ light refreshments of all kinds can be obtained at city prices at all hours of the day. The trustees are determined to make Mount Coot-tha Reserve one of the most attractive places in the Southern Hemisphere, and with this commendable object in view quite a number of improvements are projected. The acquisition of the property on the north-western boundary of the reserve by the local governing bodies interested has been suggested in order to allow of the completion of the segment in the, at present, semi-circular track called Coronation Drive. If this work were consummated, it would be possible to enter the reserve at the caretaker’s cottage, and, after a circuitous walk or drive of about six miles, leave by a road leading on to the Paddington tram terminus. Further shelter-sheds are to be provided, and avenues of flowering and other shade trees planted along the drives and on the crest of Constitution Hill. The erection of an hospice on Mount Coot-tha, and the extension of the Toowong tram service thereto, are

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also spoken of as likely to be brought about in the near future. The climate on Constitution Hill and Mount Coot-tha, even in mid-summer, is as exhilarating as a glass of champagne, for

"There is sweetness in the mountain air,
And life that bloated ease can never hope to share."

At various points on the well-made main road to Mount Coot-tha and along the horseshoe-shaped Coronation Drive six large "windows," or look-outs, have been cut through the scrub to permit of an unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape. Finger-posts indicate the location of the many places of interest in the reserve; consequently, visitors experience no trouble in finding them, and studying them to the fullest extent.

Roads to Mount Coot-tha

There are five well-made roads and tracks to the summit of Mount Coot-tha. The starting point of three of these is from the Intelligence and Tourist



AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE GATES, SHOWING ROADS TO PADDINGTON TRAM TERMINUS (RIGHT) AND TO THE TOOWONG CEMETERY GATES (LEFT).

Bureau, at the corner of Queen and George streets. Tourists have the choice of three speedy means of locomotion—by motor-car, buggy, or tramcar. If either of the two first-named vehicles is selected, they can drive to the apex of Mount Coot-tha or Constitution Hill without alighting, but if the Toowong tram-car is chosen it will be necessary to get off the car at Wool street (Toowong), then proceed along this street for a few chains until they meet a finger-post indicating the track to Mount Coot-tha. Entering the old rifle range reserve on the right, they strike a specially-made track, of easy gradient, and, after devious turnings around the sides of a

MOUNT COOT-THA.

precipitous and densely timbered ridge, the main road to the hill is reached after a pleasant walk of about half-an-hour. Once on the main road, a few minutes' easy walk takes the party to the crest of Mount Coot-tha, where they can, if needs be, regale themselves with refreshments at the kiosk. The vehicular journey from the city can be made by different routes, but the most picturesque is via North Quay, thence along River Road, thence into and along Sylvan Road (Toowong), to the Toowong Cemetery Gates, thence along Mount Coot-tha Road to the entrance gates of the reserve, and along the main road to the top of Mount Coot-tha and Constitution Hill. The return journey may be made through charming rural scenery. After leaving the caretaker's cottage at the entrance gates, the chauffeur



PORITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRACK FROM WOOL STREET, TOOWONG.

or cabdriver takes his passengers past Stuartholme, and Dr. Lockhart Gibson's residence. Ascending the heights of Paddington, Government House is left behind on the right, and Clinton Hill (the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor), which is on the left, is also passed by. At this stage of the return journey, it may be mentioned that a splendid panorama of the city is unfolded from the high ground near the terminus of the Paddington tram-car service. The touring party have now the choice of two routes back to the city—either along the streets traversed by the Paddington tram, or through the arcadian suburb of Rosalie, and thence via River Road back to the Intelligence and Tourist Bureau.

The other two roads by which Mount Coot-tha can be reached lead from Taringa and Indooroopilly, via Stanley Terrace. These are easy to negotiate, and after pedestrians get within the confines of the

MOUNT COOT-THA.

reserve they transverse a gradually rising zig-zag track through the scrub until they reach the second shelter shed at Picnic Point, which is only a few chains from the kiosk. Both these roads lead through charming rural scenery, the numerous villas and flower gardens passed by en route adding considerably to the natural beauties.

The cost of journeying to Mount Coot-tha by motor-car from the city is £1 10s. return, including a wait of, at least, half-an-hour for sight-seeing. Each car will accommodate five passengers. The cab charge for the same number of passengers is £1 return, while the tram fare to Wool street (Toowong), the nearest point to Mount Coot-tha, is 3d.

An Amphitheatre of Grandeur

is spread out to sightseers as soon as they reach the kiosk on Mount Coot-tha. Standing at the stone pillar (on which, it may be mentioned, there is an engraved dial showing the geographical places of interest at the different points of the compass), it is possible, on a bright, clear day, to get a comprehensive panorama of the surrounding country in all



THE PICTURESQUE ASCENT TO MOUNT COOT-THA.

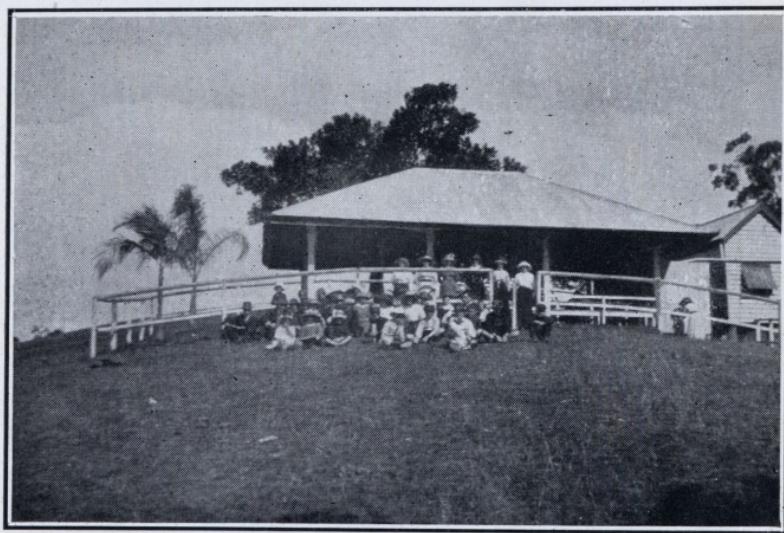
its glorious settings. The concatenation of views which are brought under the visual observation of the visitor are intoxicatingly entrancing in their splendour. With the balmy sunshine glistening on the waters of the Brisbane River as it flows on its sinuous course to the sea and the mighty ocean out in the eastern distance the aqueous surface resembles a huge bed of dazzling pearls. Diverse shades in verdure are contributed to the scene by the foliage of the dense forests of trees, the grassy swards, and

MOUNT COOT-THA.

the cultivated areas of agriculturists and horticulturists, while overhead the cerulean vaults of heaven, illuminated by the golden shafts of solar light, add sublimity to the vista. Under such tranquil conditions

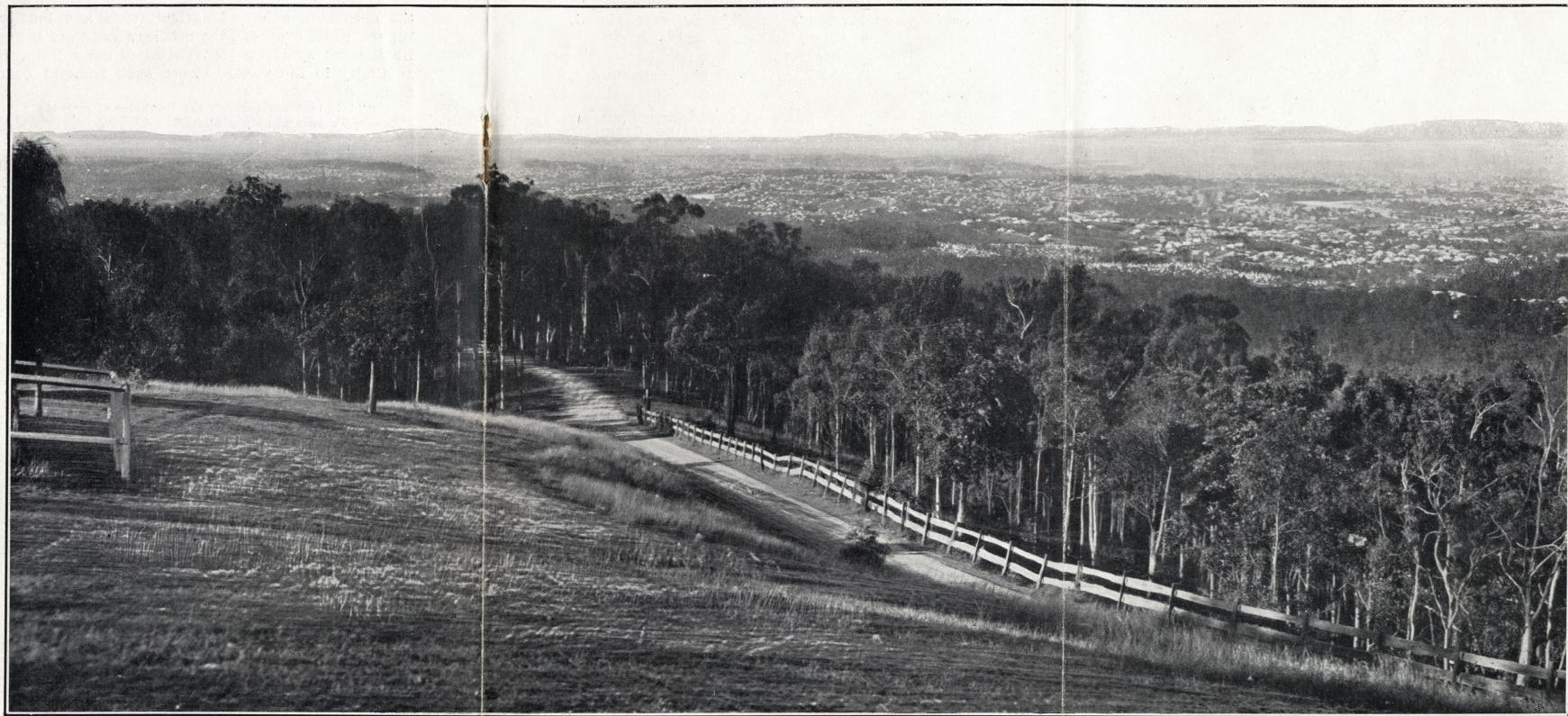
“ ‘Tis pleasant through the loopholes of retreat
To peep at such a world.”

Looking in a north-easterly direction, the visitor can see the sparkling waters of Moreton Bay in the distance, with the Cape Moreton lighthouse (382 feet) on the north-eastern point of Moreton Island in the background. On the western side of the island can be discerned Bulwer signal station and Cowan Cowan Point, with Mount Tempest slightly in the background. The picturesque promontories of Redcliffe and Woody Point, with Bramble Bay, Sandgate, and Nudgee Beach to the south, and



THE KIOSK ON MOUNT COOT-THA.

Deception Bay to the north, next arrest the attention of those who transfer their telescopic eyes to the mainland. Even from this great distance the seaside charms of the places mentioned can be noted. In the middle distance the agricultural settlement about Bald Hills, Zillmere, Nudgee, and Geebung, with the Christian Brothers' College at Nudgee standing out prominently against the skyline from a knoll, come under the admiring gaze of the onlooker. Further to the west, on the north side of the Sandgate line and the western side of the North Coast line, a splendid panorama of the outlying metropolitan suburbs can be obtained. Virginia and Northgate Junction first attract notice, and then Nundah, with its pineapple farms dotted here and there. The populous suburbs of Wooloowin and Albion nestle in the valley below, the waters of Kedron Brook, Breakfast Creek, and the Brisbane River contributing a silvery sheen to the picture. The existence of many high chimney stacks in and



PANORAMA OF BRISBANE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, LOOKING FROM NORTH TO EAST.

around Albion impress the visitor that it is a suburb of more than ordinary industrial activity. The bald crest of Eildon Hill (260 feet), a short distance from Windsor, on the Enoggera line, is next scanned. To the north-west is the rising suburb of Enoggera, and, by the way, the camping ground of the first contingent of Queensland Expeditionary Forces, which proceeded to the front to fight for the glories of the Empire. Nearer to view there are the densely populated suburbs of Kelvin Grove, Red Hill (particularly the imposing St. Brigid's (R.C.) Church), Paddington, and then the city itself.

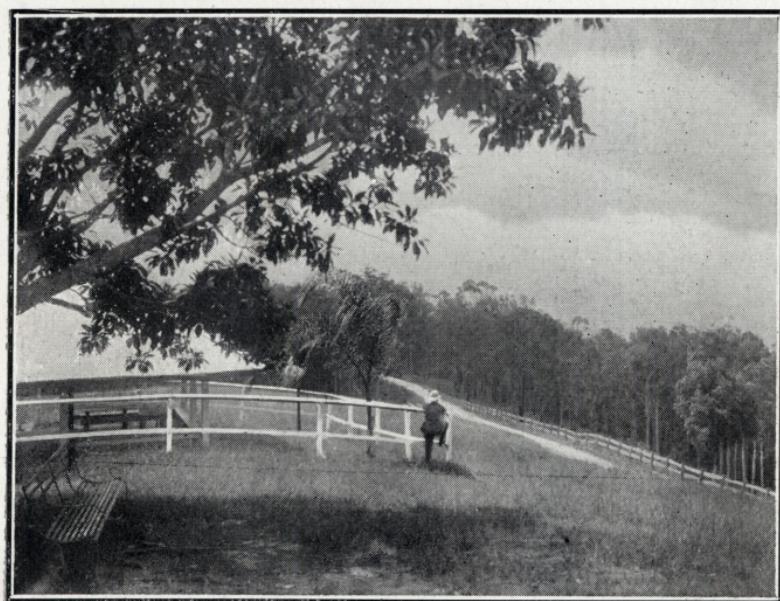
Turning eastwards one is unable to take in the whole of the scenes that come under the observation

of one's eyes at a glance; consequently, it is necessary to gaze again and again to form a true conception of their comprehensiveness. In the background there can be seen the southern portion of Moreton Island, then the South Passage, Amity Point, the northern portion of Stradbroke Island, with Mount Capembah (or Big Hill) and Dunwich Benevolent Asylum on the western foreshores. Dotted about in the expansive Moreton Bay are many islands, several of which are densely clothed with timber. Conspicuous among these are Mud Island, St. Helena Penal Station, Green Island, King Island, and Peel Island Quarantine Station. Near the mouth of the Brisbane there are Fisherman Islands. Following the mainland from Luggage Point, at the

mouth of the Brisbane River, one can see without any difficulty Lytton Fort, and the popular seaside resorts of Wynnum, Manly, Wellington Point, and Cleveland over the dense mangrove growths, which act as an emerald fringe to the seaboard. Waterloo Bay and Raby Bay can also be located. Inland from the waterfront the branch railway line from Brisbane to Cleveland can be distinguished, with evidences of much agricultural activity in and around the townships connected therewith. To the west of the places already mentioned are the well-laid out suburbs of Clayfield, Eagle Junction, Ascot, and Hamilton, with the important shipping port of Pinkenba, and the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Co.'s Meatworks slightly to the east thereof. Viewed

MOUNT COOT-THA.

from this vantage (Mount Coot-tha), the transcendent beauty of the Hamilton Reach of the Brisbane River, with the terraces of attractive villas on the left bank and the extensive stone breakwater and promenade on the waterfront, causes the beholder to become enraptured with feelings of delight. Out in the stream, a short distance from the mouth of the noble and beautiful river, Parker Island, with its wealth of dense foliage, gives a verdant setting to the vista. On the right bank may be perceived the

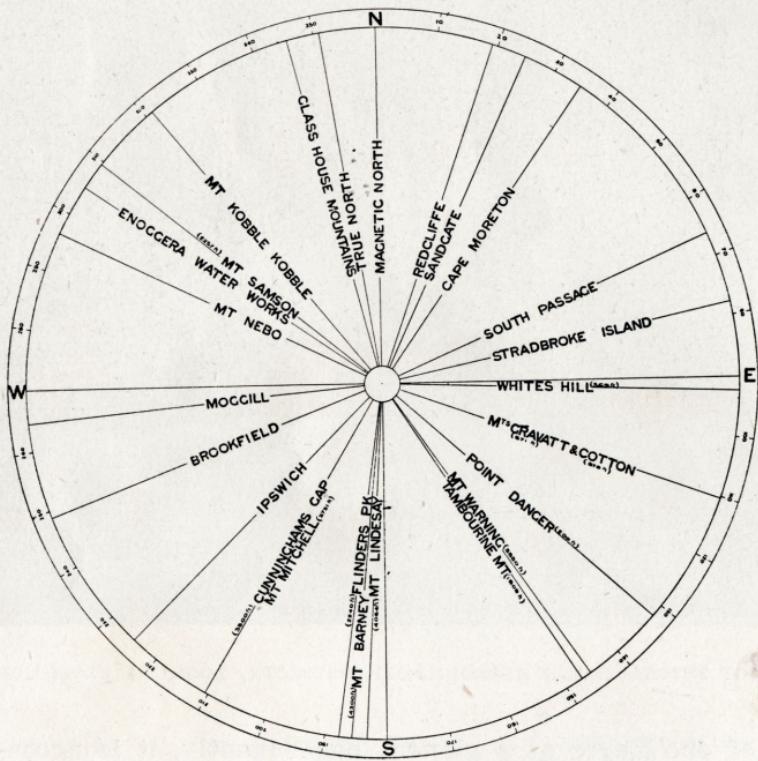


UNDER THE SHADE OF THE MORETON BAY FIGS ON MOUNT COOT-THA.

extensive meatworks of Baynes Bros., Borthwicks Ltd., and the Australian Meat Export Co. There are several other large manufacturing establishments on the same side of the river, but these are hidden from view by patches of scrub, &c. On the outskirts of the metropolitan area there can be seen a series of hills, the most prominent of which are White's Hill (369 feet)—a favourite tourist resort—and Mount Petrie (556 feet). At the foot of these elevations, and stretching in towards the city of South Brisbane are Tingalpa, Coorparoo, Belmont, Balmoral, Morningside, and Galloway's Hill (140 feet); then the South Brisbane Cemetery, Highgate Hill, West End, Hill End, across the Brisbane River to Toowong, which nestles at the foot of Mount Coot-tha. Many public and mercantile buildings in the city of South Brisbane also stand out boldly. On the north side of the river the city of Brisbane, with its numerous imposing public and commercial structures, next come under the focal range of the observer. The sinuous course of the Brisbane River is now made conclusively apparent as it flows through the heart of the city, the massive Victoria Bridge connecting the north side and the south, and also providing a

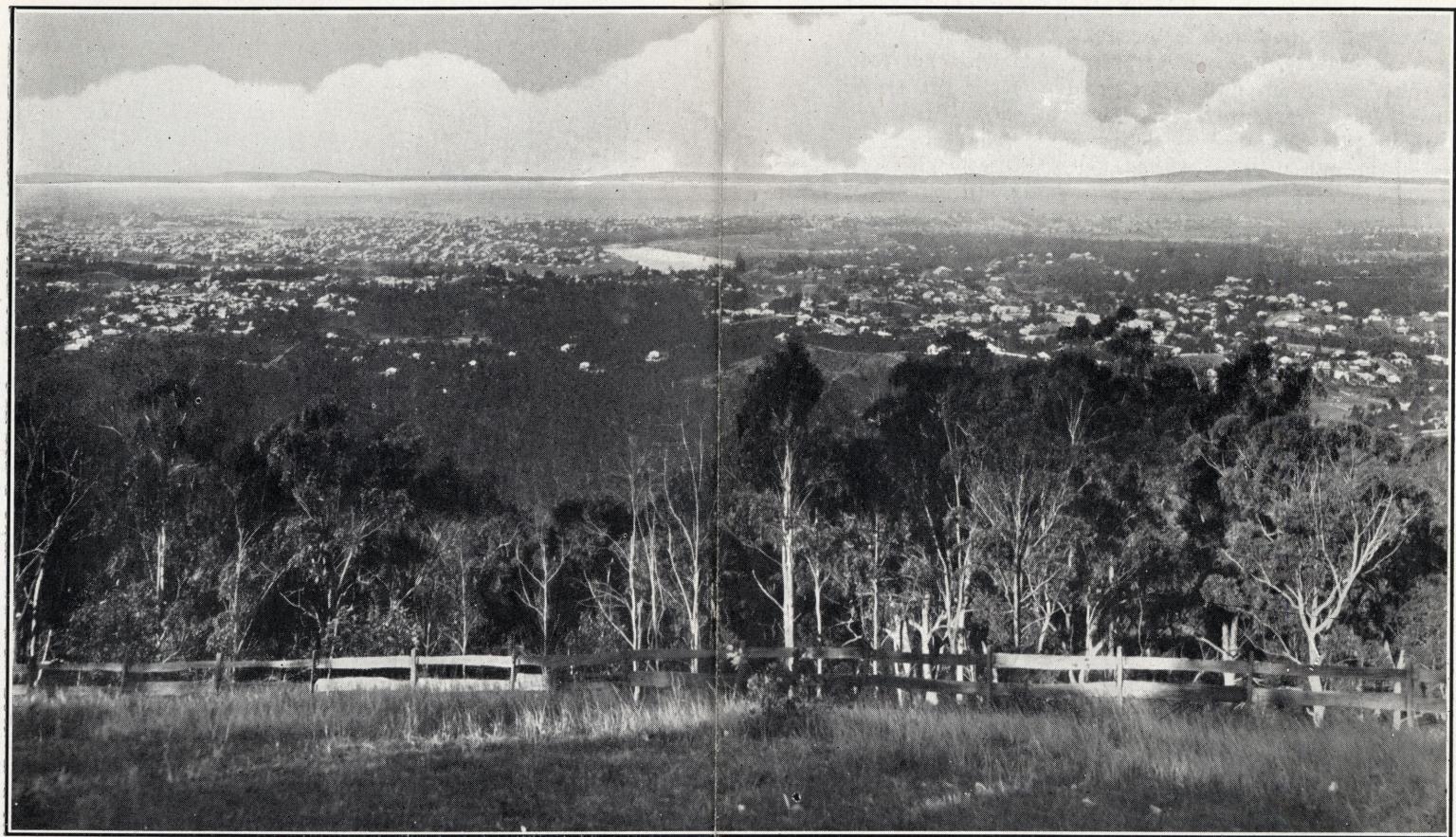
MOUNT COOT-THA.

water frontage for the suburbs of Kangaroo Point, Hawthorne, New Farm, Bulimba, and one or two other suburbs already referred to. Looking in the direction of the mouth of the river Auchenflower, Milton, and Roma-Street Railway Station, and the main line, are observed in the foreground, then the Observatory on Wickham Terrace, the Grammar School (boys and girls) on Gregory Terrace, and the Exhibition Building, and further away Bowen Terrace. Among the many buildings which stand up like huge monumental sentinels on the north side of the river are:—The Treasury Buildings, Executive Buildings, Parliament House, St. John's (Anglican) Cathedral, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and All Hallow's (R.C.) Convent; while on the south side the most notable structures are:—South Brisbane Town Hall, Mater Misericordiae (R.C.) Hospital, and St. Andrew's (Anglican) Church.



DIAL SHOWING BEARINGS FROM MOUNT COOT-THA.

A series of hills of small altitude, but sufficiently high to obstruct the land and seascape beyond them, fill in a considerable portion of the south-eastern segment of the compass. The first to attract notice is Mount Petrie (556 feet), then a clump of hills locally known as Pine Mountains, Mount Gravatt (671 feet)—a popular health resort—with Mount Cotton (878 feet) away in the distance. In the intervening space between Mount Gravatt is the agricultural settlement of Cooper's Plains, and to the south of Mount Cotton much agricultural development is taking place at Gramzow. Further hills again



PANORAMA OF BRISBANE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, LOOKING FROM EAST TO SOUTH-EAST.

obtrude themselves, and preclude even a glimpse of the country beyond them. The course of the train as it steams along the South Coast Line to Southport, Nerang, and finally to Tweed Heads can be seen for many miles. Looking across the railway line it is possible to see Point Danger lighthouse, as it stands 200 feet above sea level at the entrance to Tweed Heads. Macpherson's Range, the dividing line between Queensland and New South Wales in the south, next comes under one's observation. Towering over this range, and its many peaks, is Mount Warning (3,850 feet), which is a short distance to the south-west. Northward of the aforementioned mountainous dividing line are several other ranges and mountains, which preclude the charming rural beauties in the Nerang, Canungra, and Coomera districts being gazed upon. Tambourine Mountain (1,809 feet) is the most notable elevation in the middle distance. To the east of it can be distinguished Wonga Wallen Mountain, and to the west Birnam Range. In the foreground lies Kingston, Brown's Plains, and Logan Village. With the aid

of glasses it is quite easy to follow the train on the Beaudesert line for many miles, the puffs of smoke from the engine materially assisting to locate its whereabouts. At one's feet lie Taringa, Indooroopilly, the Albert Railway Bridge, Chelmer, Sherwood, Corinda, and Rocklea, all of which are connected by the main Southern Railway Line. Looking across the river there are the Six Mile Rocks (a favourite river excursion resort), and then onlookers have their eyes riveted on the charming rural districts of St. Lucia, Fairfield, Yeronga, and Yeerongpilly.

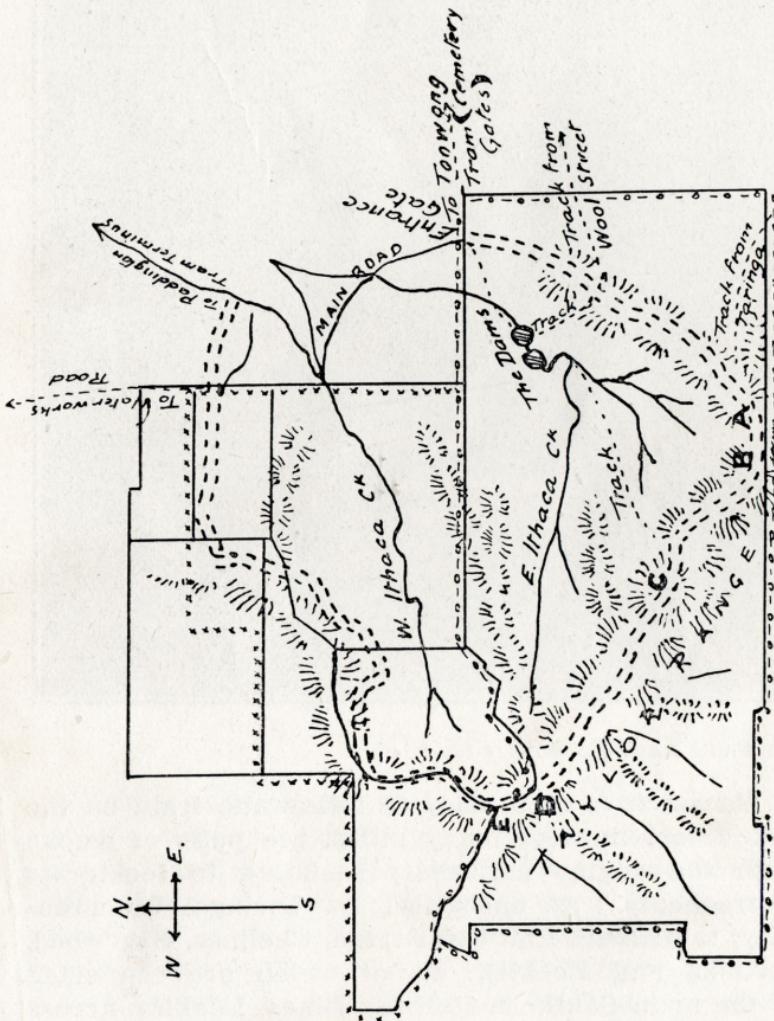
The outstanding features of the south-western quadrant are the rugged and majestic mountainous scenery. Viewed from a distance the appositeness of the poetic words—

“ 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue”—

are conclusively and agreeably emphasised. The visitor's attention is first attracted by a further stretch of the Brisbane River, then by the prosperous districts of Oxley and Goodna, next by Mount

MOUNT COOT-THA.

Goolman, Flinders Peak (2,240 feet), with Mount Barney (4,300 feet) and Mount Lindesay (4,071 feet) in the background, the latter peak being in Macpherson's Range. The intervening heights between Mounts Goolman and Barney are Knapp's Peak, Mount Walker, and Mount Maroon, but these are more or less obscured by a long spur from the Main Range running in a north-easterly direction, and which also shuts out from view the fertile agricultural areas in the Fassifern district. On this last-named spur can be detected Mount Alford, Mount



SKETCH OF MOUNT COOT-THA RESERVE, SHOWING—

- = Coronation Drive (formed as far as D).
- o — o — Boundaries of Reserve.
- x x x x Suggested Resumption of Land.
- A. Kiosk and Shelter-shed.
- B. Second Shelter-shed (Picnic Point).
- C. Constitution Hill.
- D. Third Shelter-shed.
- E. Mirror Point.

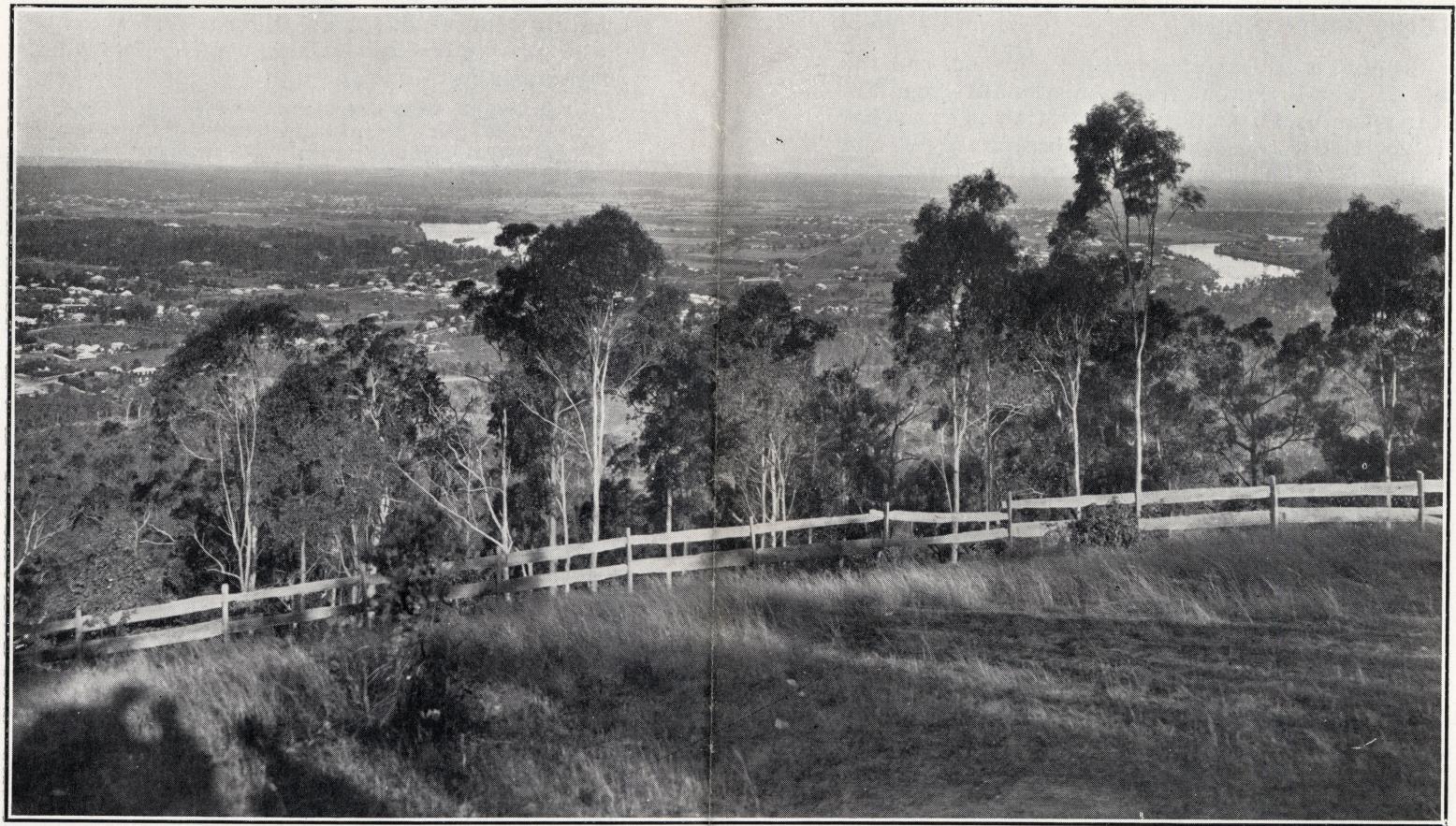
The suggested continuation of Coronation Drive is from E to the Paddington Tram Terminus.

Moon, Mount Neilson (2,643 feet), and Wilson's Peak (4,042 feet). The Main Range, with its many quaintly-shaped peaks, next commands admiration. The stern and wild grandeur is of an entralling

MOUNT COOT-THA.



“THE DAM ENCLOSURE,” SHOWING THE DAMS AND
SUB-TROPICAL FOLIAGE.



PANORAMA OF BRISBANE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, LOOKING FROM EAST TO SOUTH-EAST.

nature, and calls to mind the vivid poetic description of similar scenery in another part of the world. It is here

“Where the great dark grey hills of wonder,
Scarr'd with storms and cleft asunder
By the strong sword of the thunder,
Make a night on morning's brow.”

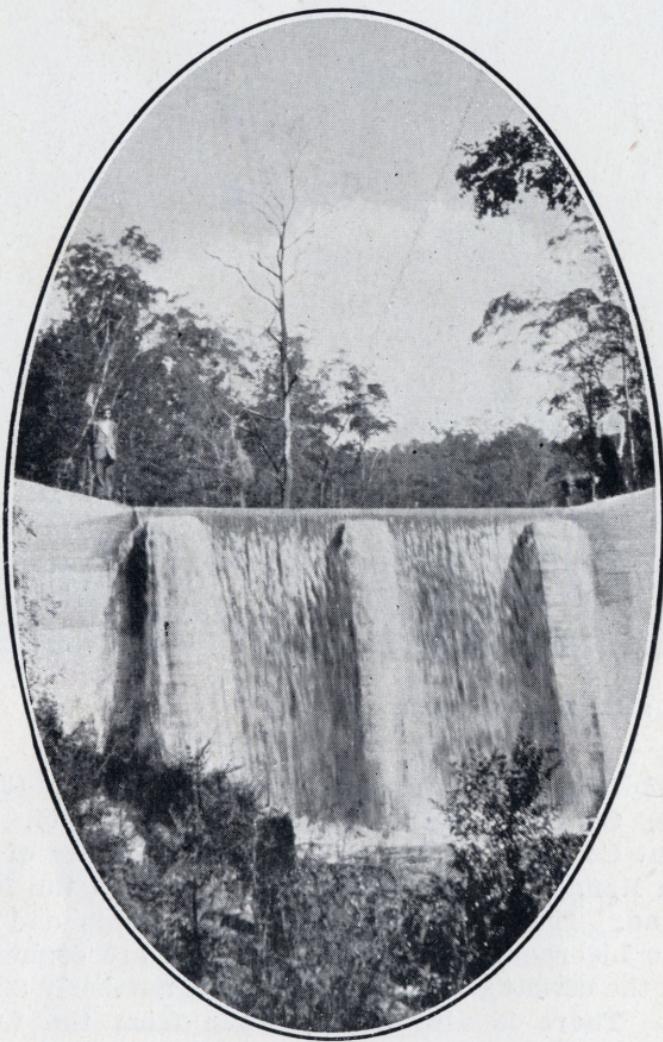
If Mount Coot-tha possessed no other attractions than the glorious panorama its elevation enables visitors to obtain of the superb mountainous scenery, which encloses it on the south-western side, they are more than amply rewarded for their climb. The visitor to the Continent of Europe is exhorted to “see Naples and die.” There is, however, no necessity for visitors to Mount Coot-tha to make up their minds to “shuffle off this mortal coil” after they have gazed upon the scenic splendours which come under their notice. As a matter of fact, visitors are advised to see Mount Coot-tha and be enchanted. Among the most prominent of Nature's ramparts in the Main Range are:—Mount Huntley

(4,153 feet), Spicer's Peak, Mount Mitchell (3,751 feet), Cunningham's Gap (about 3,500 feet), and Mount Cordeaux (4,100 feet). The remainder of the Main Range is hidden by several ranges in the foreground. These include Mistake Mountains and the Little Liverpool Range, both of which are connected with the dividing range, and run in a northerly direction. There is also a long spur from the Little Liverpool Range running in a north-easterly direction, and forming the watershed of the Bremer River. At the extreme point of this last-named spur is Mount Walker or Forbes (1,556 feet), and resembling a huge haystack. In the near distance are to be descried Riverview, Dinmore, and Bundamba (three thriving centres), the pursuits of the settlers in the first-named being confined to farming and dairying, and to coal-mining chiefly in the two last-named places. Standing out on an eminence in Bundamba can be discerned the palatial residence of the late Hon. Lewis Thomas, M.L.C. Then to the right, on another eminence, is the prosperous manufacturing city of Ipswich. With the aid of a good pair of

MOUNT COOT-THA.

field glasses a number of the principal buildings in the city can be located.

Though glimpses of Moggill, Brookfield, and the hills in the background can be attained from the stone pillar on Mount Coot-tha, the view is somewhat circumscribed; consequently, the best survey of the country from the south-west to north is revealed from the summit of Constitution Hill, which rises to an altitude of 844 feet. A delightful drive or walk of about a quarter of a mile takes the visitor to this admirable coign of vantage.



THE OVERFLOW FROM THE BIG DAM.

Constitution Hill's Wondrous Panoramas

From this exalted position alpiners are afforded an opportunity of scanning the surrounding country from, at least, two-thirds of the compass without the slightest difficulty. The extensiveness of the view disclosed as onlookers peep at the world beyond through the wide apertures between the gaunt eucalypti, which fringe the edges of the hill, is calculated to make their senses swim with astonishment and delight. It is unquestionably the most

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magnificent and most complete panorama of Brisbane, its environs, and the contiguous country outside its boundaries that can be attained. Well might the poet exclaim:

“Heavens! What a goodly prospect spreads around,
Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
And glittering towers, and gilded streams.”

Resuming the description of the country from a south-westerly direction to the magnetic north, the silvery glint of Moggill Creek is seen over the top



CHARMING VIEW OF THE DAMS.

of the dense forest in the foreground. Then the smiling agricultural homesteads at Moggill, and later the wealth-producing farms at the base and on the sides and brow of Brookfield Hills. Out in the distance the dim outline of the Main Range in the direction of Toowoomba can be distinguished. In the valley below one looks upon what seems to be impenetrable forest rich in every tint of green. The

MOUNT COOT-THA.

dense scrub shuts out the view of Enoggera Reservoir, and the adjacent areas in the north-west, but from the cleared elevation on the northern boundary of the reserve these places can be observed with ease. Looking in a north-easterly direction a good stretch of the Pacific Ocean as far north as Caloundra Head is brought to view. Bribie Island, in particular, standing out very conspicuously. Strathpine and North Pine, and also the sparkle of the Caboolture River in the distance, next come within the range of your optics. A short distance to the west of the foregoing bearings the observant visitor is enabled to get a very fine survey of the Glasshouse Mountains, as they stand out like pyramids in a vast plain, with the northern portion of the D'Aguilar Range acting as a barrier in the background. In the foreground can be seen Mount Beerburrum, close to the North Coast Line; then Mount Tibrogargan slightly in the rear, and also close to the railway line; then Mount Coonowrin (or Crook Neck), 1,160 feet, to the north-west; then Mount Beerwah (1,760 feet), a short distance to the left of the last-named elevation; and then Mount N'gun N'gun due north of Mount Tibrogargan.

Descending Constitution Hill by an easy gradient, the visitor once more takes the horseshoe-shaped road, aptly called "The Coronation Drive," and proceeds for about a mile to the north-western boundary of the reserve. Arrived there, several very pretty vistas are disclosed through the "windows" which the trustees have had cut through the forest of trees. From this coign of vantage, known as Mirror Point, an admirable survey of the country in the valley of Enoggera Creek can be gained. To the left is the Enoggera Reservoir, on which can be seen quite plainly swarms of feathered game. An emerald tinge is lent to the picture by a number of well-tilled farms in the valley and up the slopes of the Enoggera Range. The Glasshouse Mountains, in the far distance, can also be seen from this point. In the middle distance beyond the reservoir several peaks in the D'Aguilar Range are distinguishable. The most noticeable of these are:—Mountain Camp, Mount Nebo, Mount Samson (2,257 feet), and Mount Kobble Kobble. Visitors to Mirror Point are reluctant to leave until they have feasted their eyes upon the sublime rural scene. Having tasted

"Life's purest joy of ecstasy"

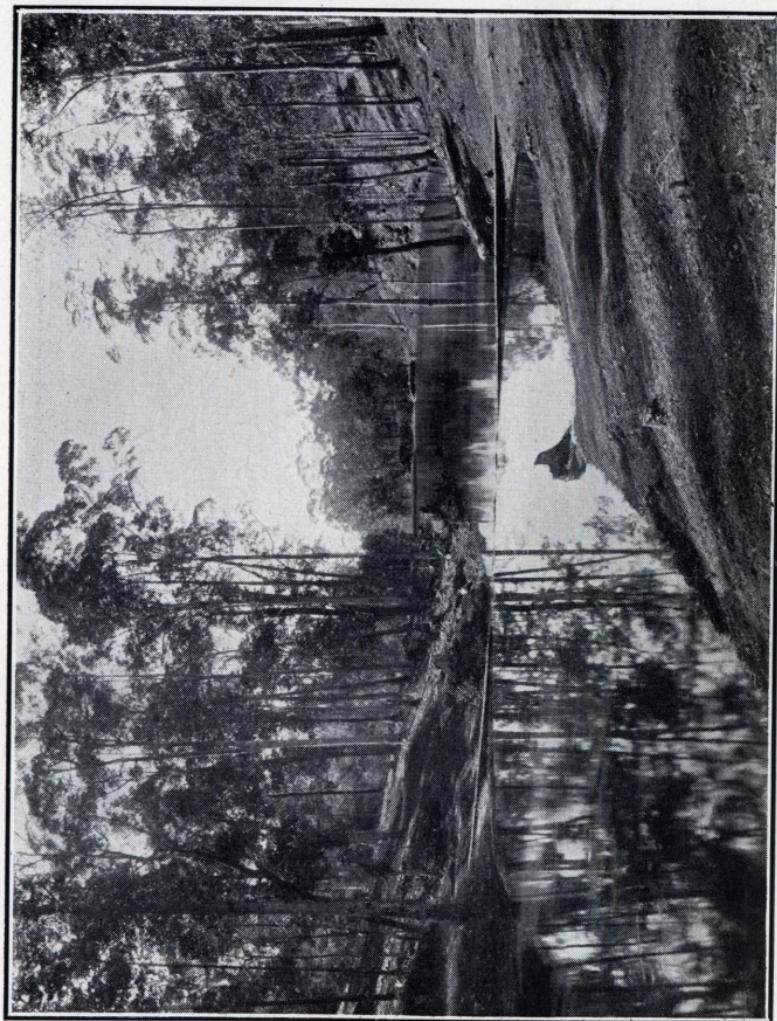
to the fullest measure, other places of interest within the confines of the reserve claim their attention.

The view by night from either Mount Coot-tha or Constitution Hill is one of dazzling beauty, the lights of the city and the surrounding country resembling myriad stars.

MOUNT COOT-THA.

Other Points of Interest

One of the most fascinating spots, and certainly the most ideal picnic ground in the reserve, is the place known as "The Dam Enclosure." This can be reached by a track leading from the kiosk, or from a track junctioning with the pedestrian one from Toowong, or by a level road leading from the main entrance gates. Situated in a deep ravine between Mount Coot-tha and Constitution Hill, there are two large sheets of water held in captivity by solid walls of concrete. These dams are fed by a number of rivulets having their sources in the adjacent hills. The swish of the waters as they



LIGHT AND SHADE EFFECTS ON THE DAMS.

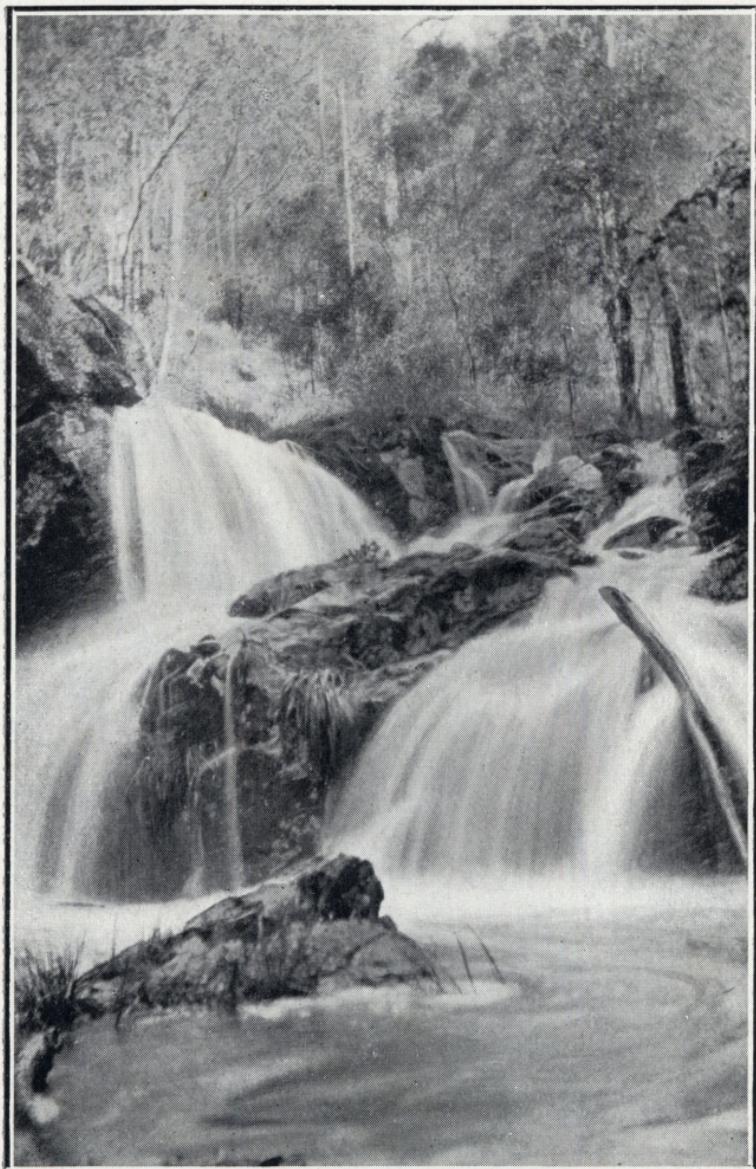
tumble over miniature cataracts with reckless abandon, and the twitter of the birds in the trees, makes one feel that there are

"Tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

The larger of the dams has a depth of from 15 feet to 16 feet. On the banks of the dams, and on different parts of the beautiful lawn at their side, the trustees have had a number of tree ferns, palms,

MOUNT COOT-THA.

jacarandas, poinsettias, and other sub-tropical foliage planted, while scattered about are seats, on which tired mortals may rest preparatory to negotiating the climb to "The Pinnacle Rock or Grotto" on Constitution Hill. The ascent to the last-named



WATERFALL OUTSIDE THE RESERVE.

spot is somewhat tiring, but once accomplished alpiners are well repaid for their exertions by the beautiful vista unfolded therefrom. Passing up the ravine one sees a wealth of wild vegetation, some of which is literally covered with blooms. A short, but easy climb takes the exploring visitor to the kiosk. Then a short walk to the second shelter shed at Picnic Point, and a finger-post indicates the location of "The Devil's Slide." It is, indeed, a devil's slide. Shooting the shute is not in it so far as thrills are concerned. The descent is very steep, and taxes the courage of ordinary individuals. Children, however, revel in the excitement and adventure which

MOUNT COOT-THA.

the descent of "The Devil's Slide" provokes. Needless to say the ascent is equally as hazardous. If you want to see all the beauties of Mount Coot-tha you must do the slide. Arrived at the bottom one finds himself

"'Midst unspoiled sylvan retreats."

In this veritable fairyland of surpassing natural beauty there is to be seen a gorgeous profusion of native flora—maiden hair and bracken ferns, ground orchids, violets, and native sarsaparilla, while standing up in close formation like grim sentinels are to be seen box and eucalyptus trees, relieved here and there by clumps of bush wattle and dogwood. To the botanist, and even the naturalist, there is much to be found which will prove of engrossing interest. Here, in this fairy dell, there is

"No noise, no care, no vanity, no strife;
Men, woods, and fields all breathe untroubled life."

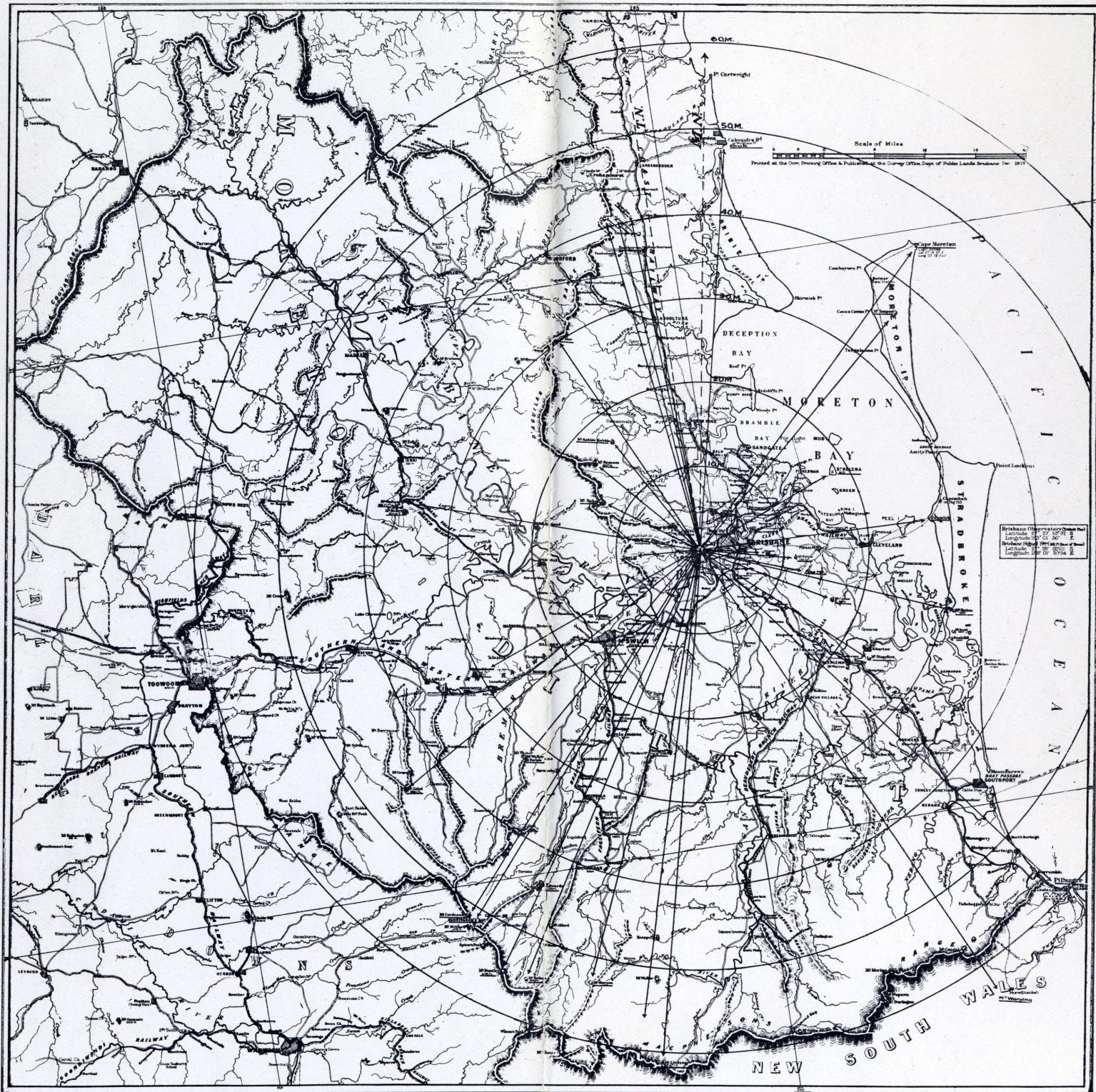
Trustees of Mount Coot-tha Reserve

In conclusion, the trustees of Mount Coot-tha Reserve are deserving of a word of commendation for the work they have done, and are still doing, in making Mount Coot-tha attractive not only to city folk, but also to visitors from all parts of the Commonwealth of Australia. The names of the present trustees of the reserve are:—Sir Alfred Cowley (chairman), Sir Samuel W. Griffith (Chief Justice of the Commonwealth), Dr. E. S. Jackson, Messrs. E. H. Macartney, M.L.A., and E. G. S. Scriven (Under Secretary for Agriculture), with Mr. C. W. Costin (Clerk of the State Parliament) as honorary secretary.

Brisbane has reason to be proud of the fact that it has one of the finest natural observatories in the Southern hemisphere only a few miles away. It is more: it is an ideal refuge for the obsessed citizen to seek quiet and ease from worldly cares and worries in an atmosphere of sweet forgetfulness.

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Compiled 18th September, 1914.



MAP OF COUNTRY SURROUNDING MOUNT COOT-THA, SHOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EXTENDING OVER A RADIUS OF FROM 10 TO OVER 60 MILES.

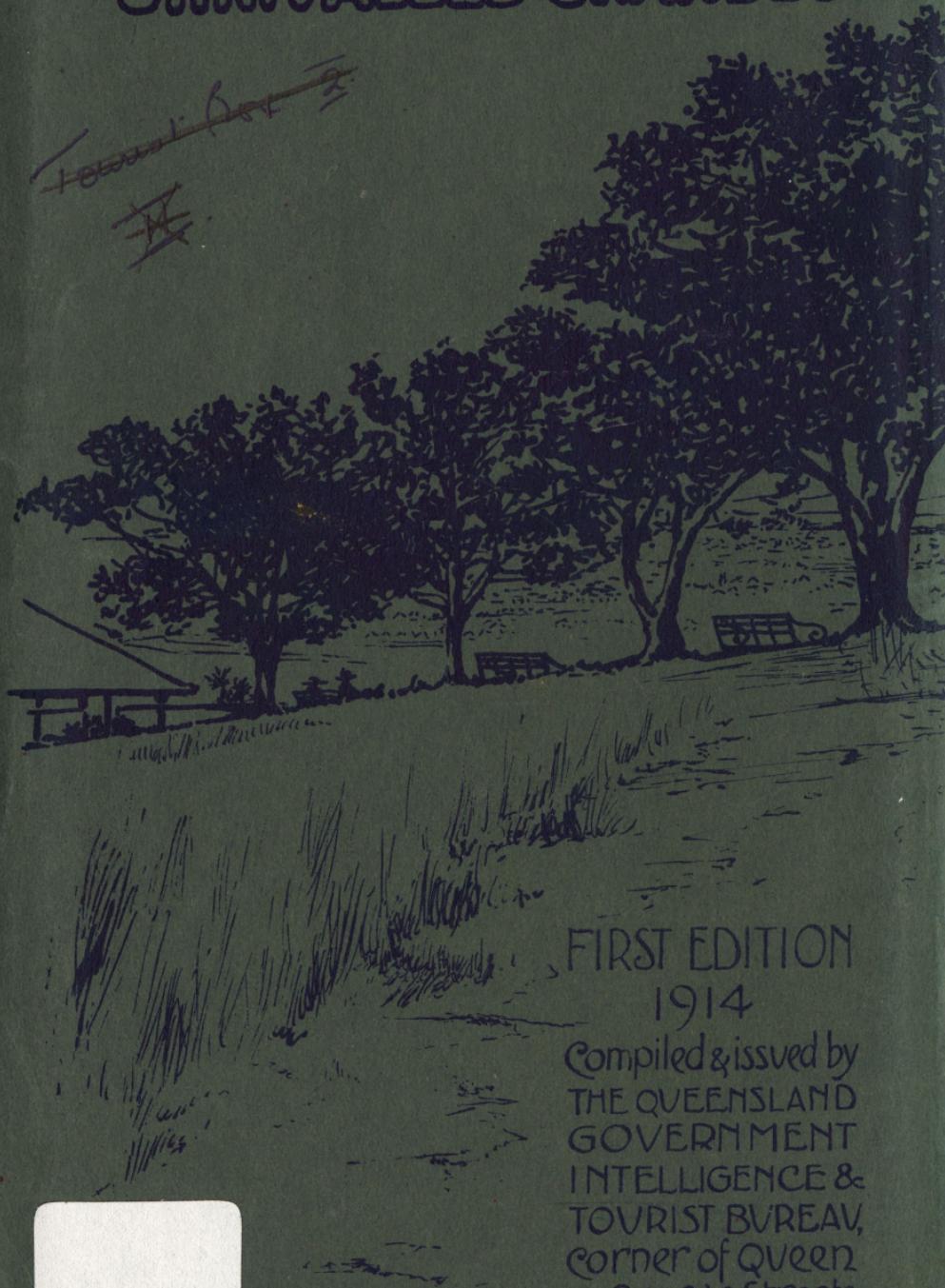
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Mount Coot-tha (One Tree Hill) Brisbane.

AN AMPHITHEATRE OF UNRIVALLED GRANDEUR



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1914

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